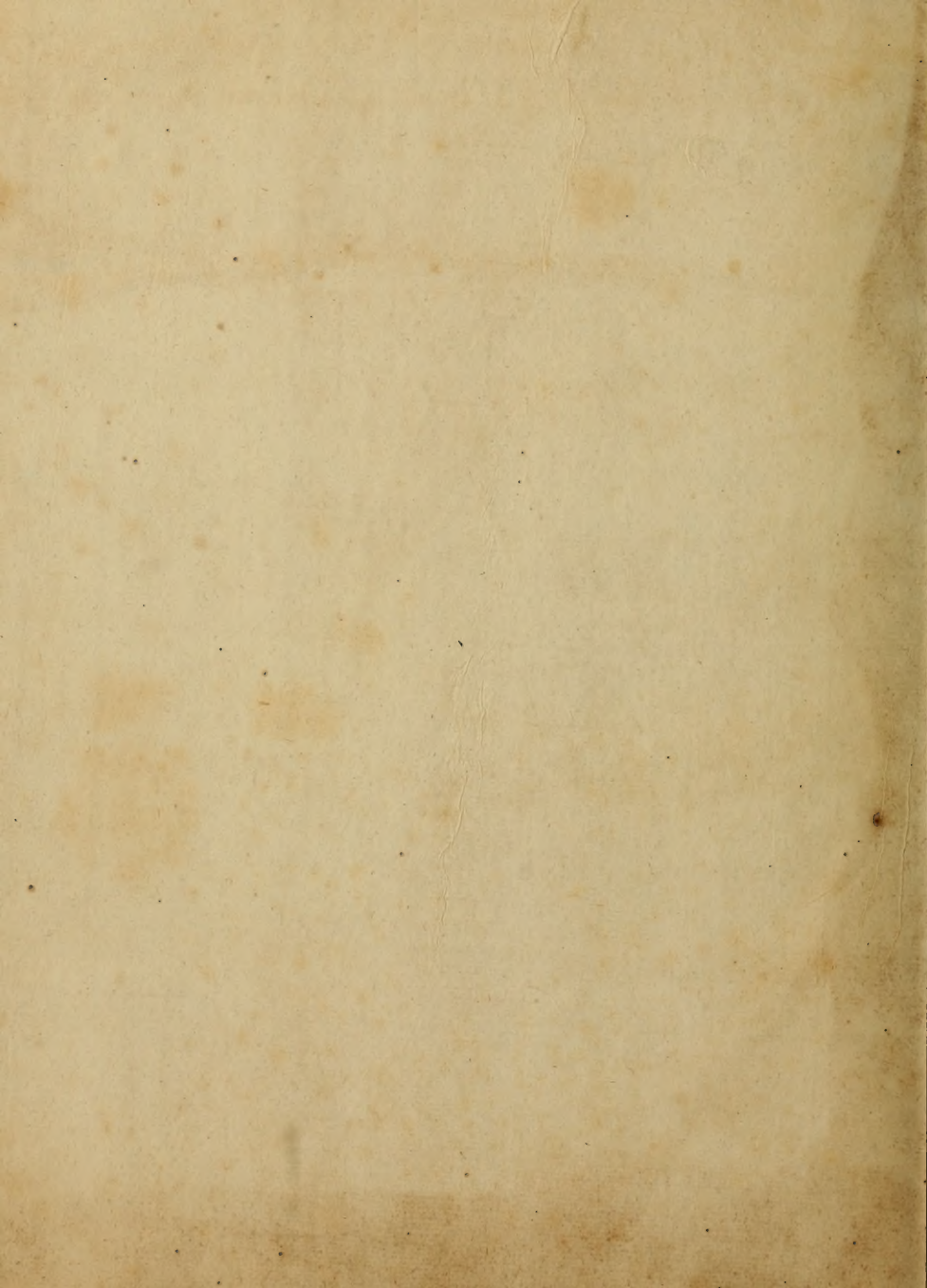










An Inaugural Dissertation

on

Phthisis Pulmonalis

Submitted for Examination

To the Right Reverend James Hempt DD prorector

and to the Regents of

the

University of Maryland

for the degree of

Doctor of Medicine

by

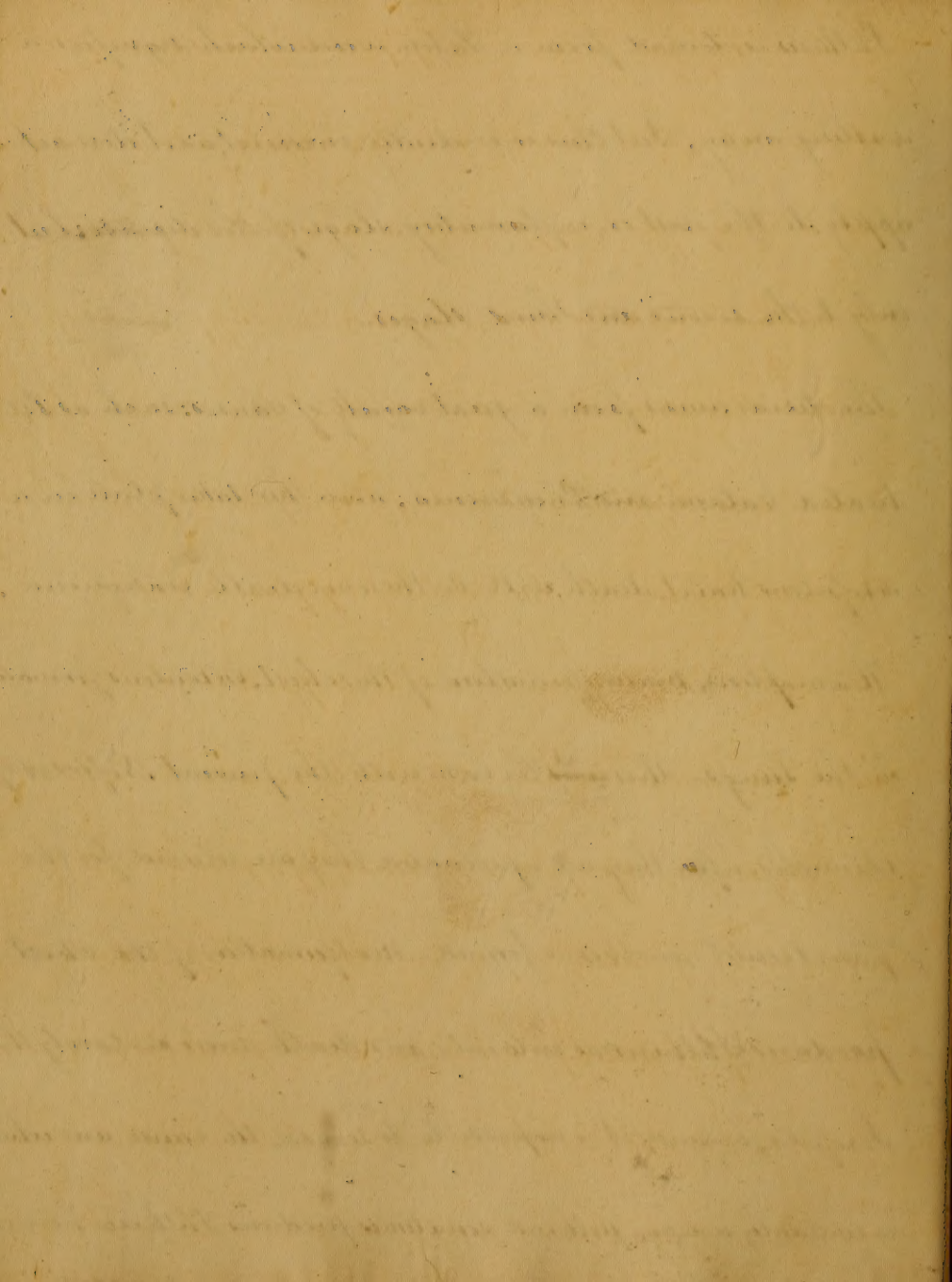
George H. Wetherall

of Baltimore

anno Domini 1826

Phthisis is derived from a Latin word which signifies a
wasting away; But this is evidently incorrect, as it does not
apply to the first or inflammatory stage of the disease; but
only to the second and third stages.

The disease arises from a great variety of causes; such as ill
treated Catarrh and Pneumonia, when this takes place in a
scrofulous habit, death will be the inevitable consequence.
Hæmoptois, malconformation of the chest, calculous formation
in the Lungs - This ~~is~~^{is} the case with the present Professor of
Chemistry - after they are expectorated they are relieved for the
present until another is formed - Malformation of the chest
produces Phthisis as certainly and death more certainly than
Scrofula; because it is impossible to remove the cause and which
is constantly acting - Asthma sometimes produces Phthisis here it is



very difficult of cure as there is dyspepsia and medicine will not remain on the stomach. There is a variety of consumption said to be caused by suppressed menses; but it is problematical whether it is caused by it, or whether the suppression of the menstrual evacuation is not an effect of the diseased state of the lungs. Repelled eruptions in persons predisposed very frequently produce it. The debilitating passions, such as grief, and fear. Disappointed love will produce it.

There is a form connected with fistula in ano, and whilst the fistula remains open the pectoral symptoms are mild; but after the operation is performed, and the fistula heals the symptoms of the consumption increases, and the patient most generally dies. There was a case of this kind in the Baltimore Infirmary in the winter of 1824, where the patient had a combination of

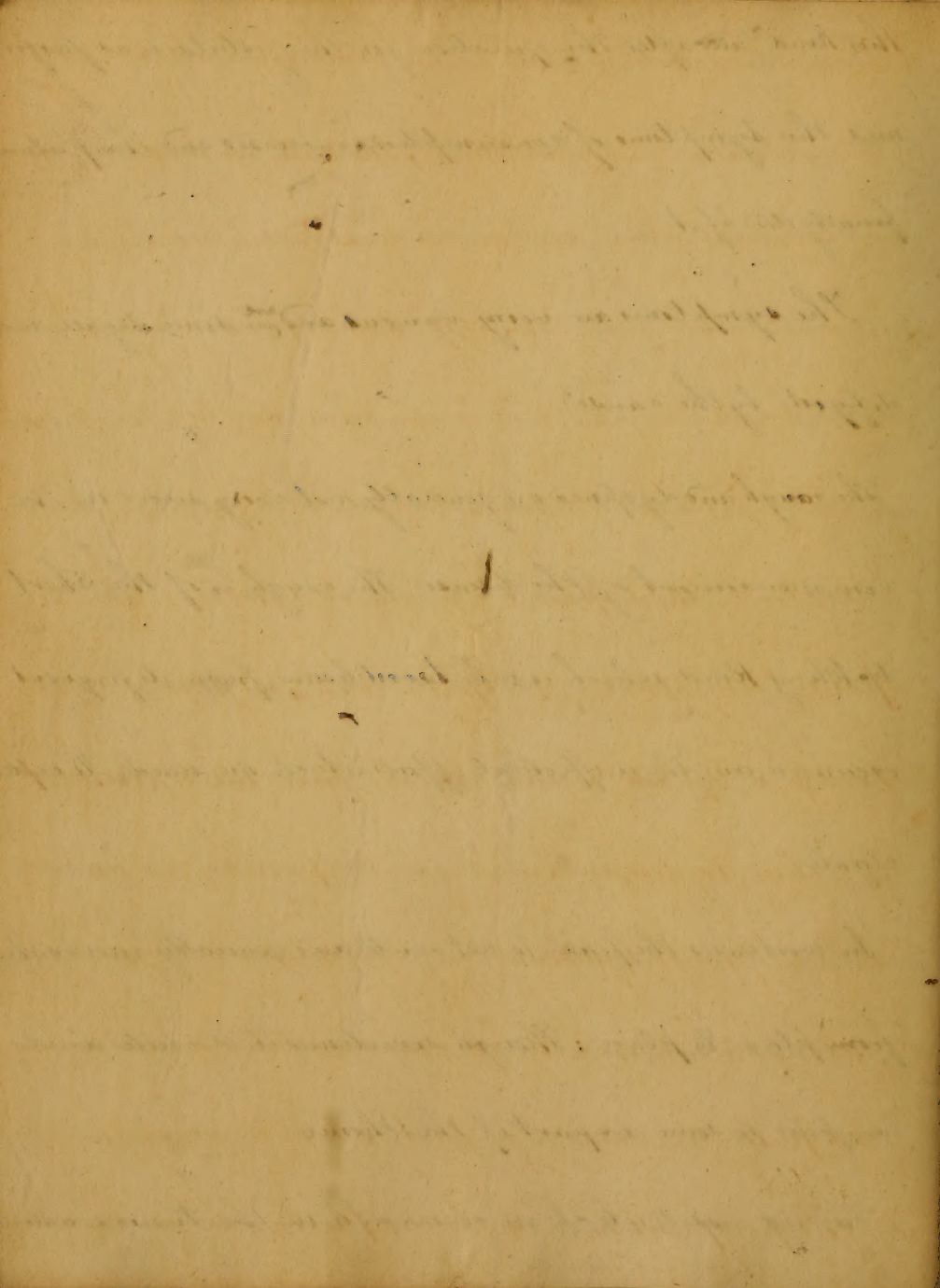
this kind; and after the operation for the fistula was performed the symptoms of consumption increased and the patient finally died of it.

The symptoms are very various and ^{are} in some degree modified by the cause.

The cough and dyspnea are generally not very severe in the commencement of the disease. The cough is of the short tickling kind, which is only troublesome from its frequent occurrence, and the ineffectual efforts which are made to expectorate.

In most cases the pain is not acute and generally moves about from place to place: Though sometimes it is acute and confined to some one part of the thorax.

The red vessels which are observable in the tunica adnata



of the Eye in a State of health, are no longer obvious, and that part
of the eye changes to a pearly white; The teeth too becomes of a
more beautiful white, and lose the dirty yellow which they
possess in a state of health. As the disease proceeds the symptoms
are aggravated; The pain becomes more severe, and fixed. The expectora-
-ion more copious and of a purulent appearance, sometimes streaked
with blood. The dyspnea becomes more distressing, and the
patient is incapable of the least exertion. The pulse is small,
hard, full, soft, ~~and~~ frequent. Hectic fever. This is preceded
by a chill, dryness, and burning in the palms of the hands,
and soles of the feet, flushed face, a circumscribed redness of
the cheeks, sometimes in one; and sometimes in both, frequ-
-ent pulse, sometimes so frequent as to be in calculable.

The perspiration in the hectic paroxysm is very

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive script. The text is mirrored across the page, suggesting it is bleed-through from the reverse side. The handwriting is elegant and consistent, typical of 18th or 19th-century correspondence. The page is aged and shows signs of wear, including creases and discoloration.

profuse which alternates with a Diarrhea which occurs in
the last stage and frequently carries the patient off.

The patient from the commencement of the disease becomes
emaciated and weak which increases to such a degree that
the skin appears as if it were drawn tense upon the bone.
The patient sometimes contracts a sudden resemblance to some
of his ancestors from the same cause.

If we expect to cure a case of hereditary Phthisis it is to
be done by some change wrought in the whole system, or in
the life of the patient, by sawing wood, hard labour of some
kind, exercise on horseback; but this is not to be used only
for a few weeks or months, but for years using a Flail,
cutting wood &c conjoined with a proper regimen. These
are the best means of curing it, if used in the first

stage after the inflammation has been subdued.

7

Bloodletting in the inflammatory state or in any other state is very much objected to on account of the great apparent debility of the patient, which is the great bug ~~bear~~^{bear} in the treatment of this disease.

Those very physicians who abuse the use of bloodletting in this disease would not hesitate to draw 20 or 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ of Blood from a patient labouring under Pneumonia; the debility is so great in the latter as to confine the patient to his bed; patients in this disease will not bear the loss of so much blood at one bleeding; but we may draw a small quantity and repeat it oftener. In fact in the inflammatory stage, and sometimes throughout the whole of the hectic stage bloodletting is our only depend^{=aver}

we cannot do without it. The patient must be kept upon milk and Vegetable diet and suitable exercise.

The first auxiliary of any value in the treatment of this disease was employed 1792 by Dr Rush, was Calomel Nitre and Antimony in several instances it has proved successful in his hands and with other practitioners.

Dr Potter says he has cured the disease by using the Unguentum Hydragori and giving internally at the same time Calomel and Opium. With respect to this remedy Calomel. It has been handed down as a general rule that where ever Scrofula exists it is injurious, certainly if given in Scrofula when the patient is debilitated it would undoubtedly be injurious. But even in Scrofula Phthisis attended with inflammatory symptoms. It

may be used with great advantage if carefully administered.

In ^{the} Catarrhal Phthisis of B. Cuneau if we exert a salivation in the first stage before the system becomes debilitated and the structure of the lungs destroyed by the long continuance of the disease we may frequently cure it.

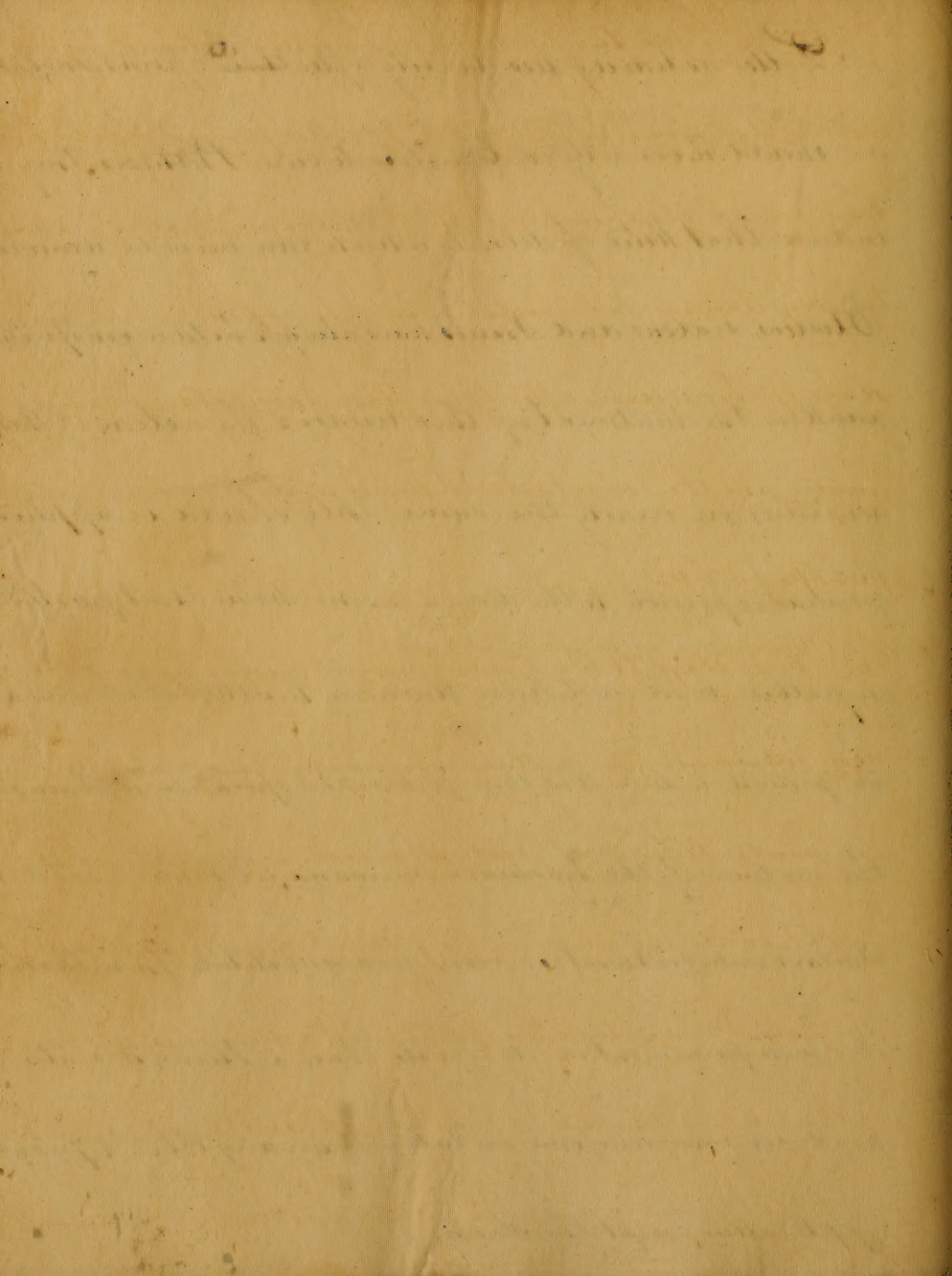
The diet should be milk and vegetables with ripe fruit, to keep the bowels in a soluble condition and small bleedings when necessary to keep down the action of the Heart. Digitalis has acquired great celebrity in the treatment of this disease: but it will not answer in the inflammatory stage its operation is like that of other narcotics, that is, it lessens the irritability of the system and of consequence diminishes the frequency of the pulse; it may be used with advantage after the inflammatory action has

been subdued and the frequency of the pulse is kept up by
an irritable condition of the nervous system.

Dr Rush was in the practice of giving Digitalis while the
 hectic fever prevailed, he suspended the symptoms by it,
 but never cured it.

Emetics were used formally and were relied on by some
 Physicians altogether. Sydenham never used them, in
 fact his practice was very similar to what it is at
 present; if the disease is inflammatory, Emetics are
 certainly inadmissible, when it depends on Scrofula &
 there is not fever, they may ~~have been~~ be useful by excit-
 ing a new action in the vessels of the lungs, but a rep-
 etition of them is always injurious by debilitating the
 stomach. The Sulphate of Copper is recommended by

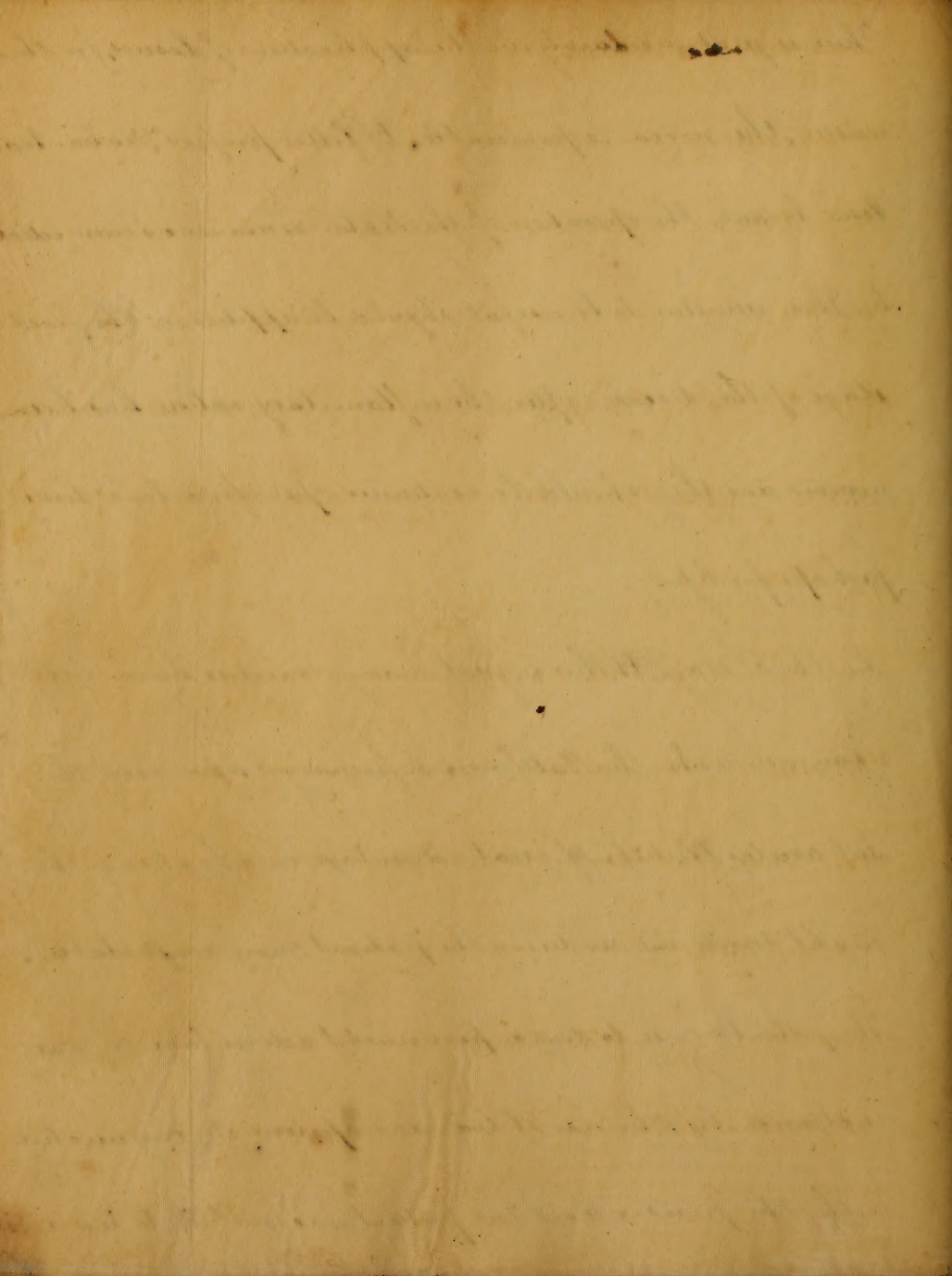
Dr Potter as leaving less debility after ~~these~~^{the} operation; but
we should never rely on Emetics to cure Phthisis, they
induce that kind of debility which can never be removed.
Blisters, searons and Issues have always held a conspicuous
rank in the treatment of this disease. The action of these
remedies, are nearly the same. They should be applied
as near as possible to the disease, as we know that parts sym-
-pathise, more in disease than in health, but we would
not pretend to deny that their principal operation is through
the medium of the sensorium commune, we believe that it is.
Tartar emetic ointment is a very good substitute for a blister
it is more permanent in its effects than a blister, a searion
produces more uniform irritation than any other topical
application, except the Moxa.



There is great uncertainty in the application of Issues, for this
reason, the moxa is preferable. Dr Potter prefers 2^d Seaton to an
Issue because the operation of the Seaton commences immediately,
by, these remedies to be useful should be applied in the first
stage of the disease after the inflammatory action has been
removed, and they should be continued open for a long time
perhaps for life.

In the 2^d stage of Phthis a great many remedies have been
recommended. In the Baltimore Infirmary I have seen the
Sub-acetas Plumbi of great advantage in checking the
night sweats and rendering the patient more comfortable.

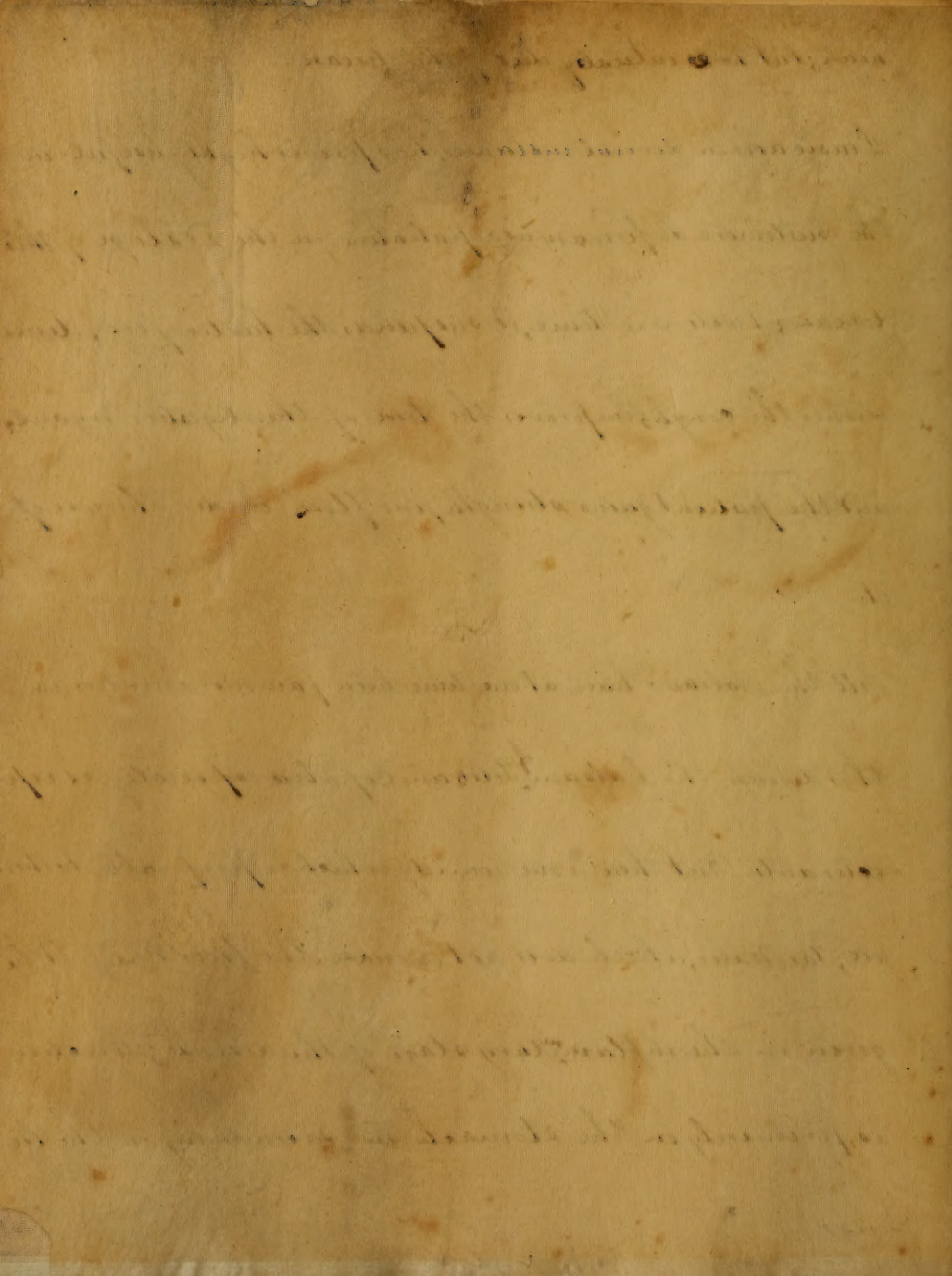
The patient seemed to derive permanent advantage in one
instance by the use of lead and opium in conjunction
with the prussic Acid, the patient was enabled to leave the



house; but he ~~was~~ eventually died of the disease. 13

Purific acid in several instances has proved highly useful in the Baltimore Infirmary, as a palliative, in the 2^d stage of this disease; it acts as a tonic, it suspends the hectic fever, diminishes the cough, improves the tone of the digestive organs, and the patient gains strength, and flesh under the use of it.

All the Balsams have at one time been famous remedies in this disease the balsam of Tolu and Copaliba especially, as expectorants. But there is one remedy which is preferable to them all, Far Water, which does not increase the fever unless it be given in the inflammatory stage of the disease; its action is primarily on the stomach and secondarily on the lu-



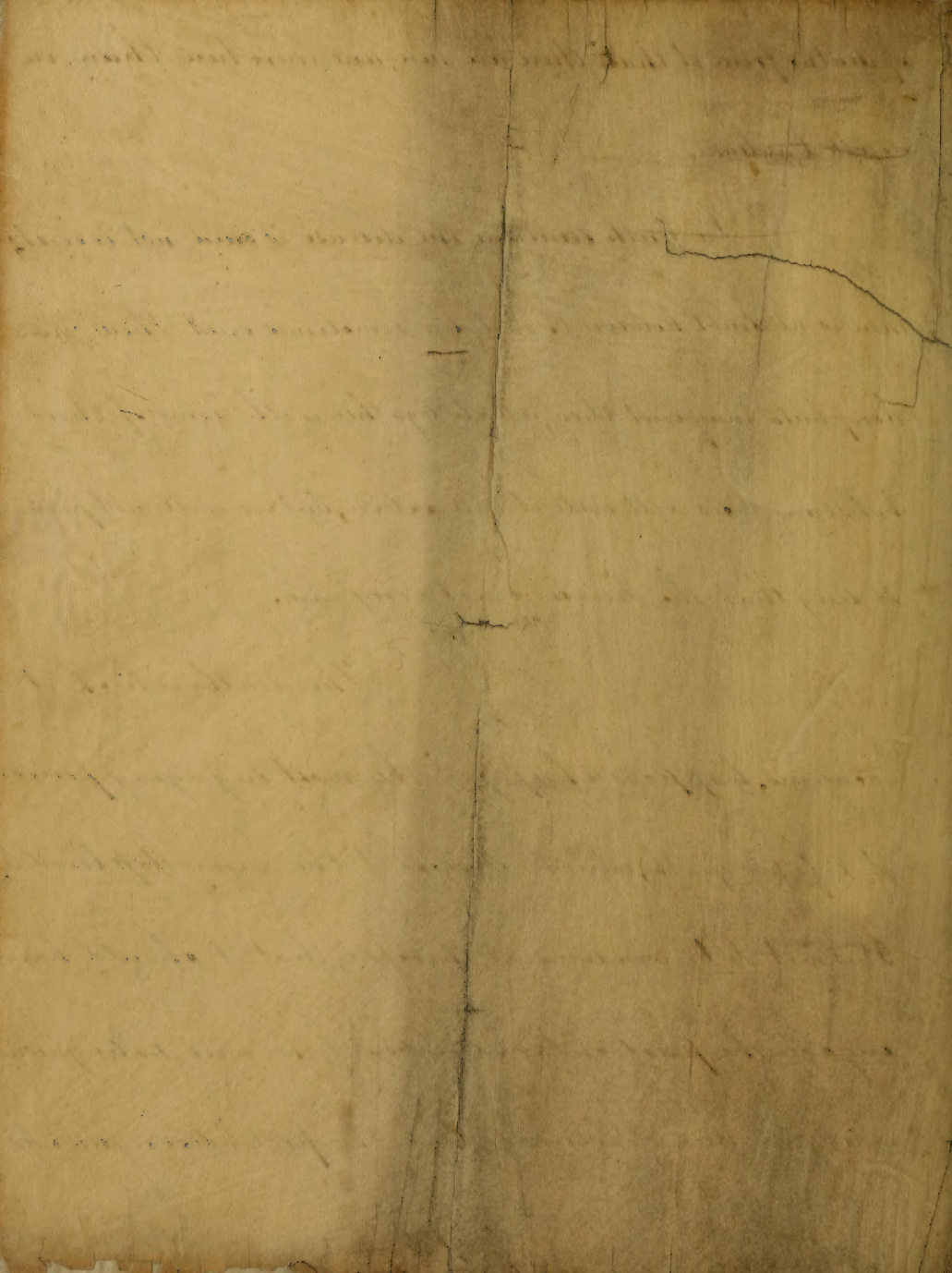
Phthisis Pulmonalis or consumption is more fatal
in this country, than in any other except Great Britain, In
G. Britain the disease is more prevalent, because scrofula
exists more universally, and the atmosphere is more humid
than in any other country. In our own country the disease
is very general and fatal, and will become more and
more general as our countrymen adopt the habits and
occupations of the inhabitants of G. Britain; and as our
climate approaches to the nature of that of England.
In New York there are more deaths from this disease
than in any other city in the United States, owing to
~~their~~^{its} proximity to the ocean, which renders the atmosphere
here moist: as we travel south the deaths from it sensibly
diminish. In New York there are double the number

of death, from it that there are here and more here than in
North Carolina. 15

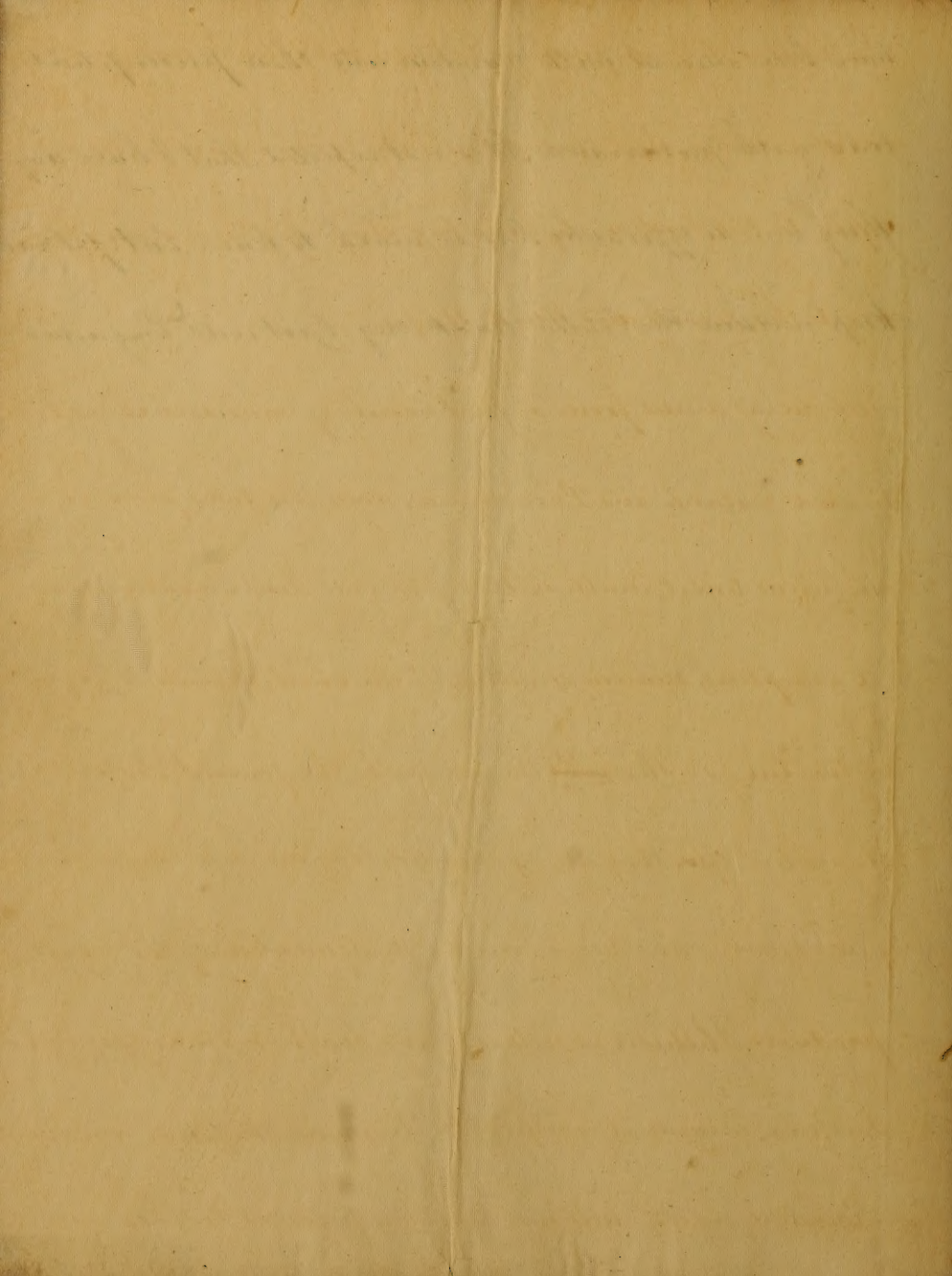
In South America the disease is said not to exist;

there is no doubt however, that it does sometimes exist there, as
Scrophula may exist there, which together with some of their
habits and vices will excite it into action, but we will not pretend
to deny that the disease is not very rare.

The deaths which it
occasionally, happens chiefly in the most engaging periods
of life, (in youth) which renders it the more deplorable.
It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that it should have
engaged the particular attention of the most distinguished
Medical men of every age. Even the pretentious quacks,



have been viewed with candour and their prescriptions
16
tried with perseverance. It is not expected that I have any
thing new to offer, who has so much to learn, but if I can
keep within the beaten track my object will ^{have} been gained.



To Dr Samuel Baker

The preparatory course of study has at length brought me to the composition of my thesis, permit me sir to dedicate it to you as a small mark of respect, for your character as a Gentleman, a Physician, and as a Lecturer in the University of Maryland, and for your politeness and attention towards me whilst prosecuting my studies under your care.

I remain

Sir,

Your grateful pupil

George A Wetherall

2. 18. 18. 18. 18.

The first thing I did was to go to the
bank and see what the interest was
on the money I had there. I found
it was 4 per cent. I then went to
the office and saw the manager.
He told me that the money was
all right and that I could have
it when I wanted. I then went
to the bank and saw the cashier.
He told me that the money was
all right and that I could have
it when I wanted. I then went
to the bank and saw the cashier.
He told me that the money was
all right and that I could have
it when I wanted.

Yours truly,
John A. Johnson

Another remedy has been used which is somewhat
analogous in its action to the plaster after the splinter has
made of Pine wood, also a tea made of the blossoms of the
pine.

The gums too were once famous remedies in such cases
such as Gum galbanum and myrrh.

The Lichen Islandicus has been employed by Dr. Lotterschlag
entirely with advantage.







